I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 9-11 and 20-27 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 5, 7, 8, 15 30, and 32, as shown below.

1. (Original) A method of treating hypertension, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation comprising pharmaceutically active relaxin in an amount effective to reduce hypertension.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hypertension is renal hypertension.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hypertension is pulmonary hypertension.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the relaxin is administered to the patient in an amount in a range of from 0.1 to 500 μg/kg of patient body weight.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the formulation is administered daily over a period of time to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the formulation is an injectable formulation.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein relaxin is administered to the patient at a predetermined rate so as to maintain a serum concentration of relaxin of from 0.5 to 50 ng/ml and continuing the administration over a period of time to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating hypertension, comprising administering an injectable formulation comprising pharmaceutically active recombinant human relaxin to a patient in an amount in a range of from 0.1 to 500 μg/kg of patient body weight, and continuing the administration over a period of time to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.

9.-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A method of increasing renal function, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation comprising pharmaceutically active relaxin in an amount effective to increase a factor associated with renal function.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the factor associated with renal function is glomerular filtration rate.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the relaxin is administered to the patient in an amount in a range of from 0.1 to 500 μg/kg of patient body weight.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the formulation is an injectable formulation, wherein the pharmaceutically active recombinant human relaxin is administered to a patient in an amount in a range of from 0.1 to 500 μg/kg of patient body weight, and wherein the administration is continued over a period of time to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.

16.-27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A method of treating pulmonary hypertension, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical formulation comprising pharmaceutically active relaxin in an amount effective to reduce pulmonary hypertension.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the relaxin is administered to the patient in an amount in a range of from 0.1 to 500 μg/kg of patient body weight.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the formulation is administered daily over a period of time to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the formulation is an injectable formulation.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein relaxin is administered to the patient at a predetermined rate so as to maintain a serum concentration of relaxin of from 0.5 to 50 ng/ml and continuing the administration over a period of time sufficient to reduce hypertension ~~obtain a therapeutic effect~~ in the patient.